SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS PROJECT
JUSTICE CENTRE/COURT SITE VISITS *2002-2003*

Individual Court Staff

What are **some of the questions** most often asked at:

- **PRE-FILING STAGE**

Process

What court am I in?
How do I change an order/recognizance?
How do I fill out this form?
What is the process to get x,y,z (custody, remove garnishee child support, peace bond, evict a tenant, start a small claims action....)
Who can prepare documents for me?
Where can I get documents prepared for me?
Why do I have to file documents?
How do I serve the other side?
Will you do it for me? Why won't you?
What is the next step?
Why can't I see a judge now?
Where can I find more information?
Who will the judge be?
Is there someone to help me read this stuff?
What will happen next?
I need probate varied, how do I do it?
How many fines do I owe?
What's the difference between arraignment and election?

Legal Advice

Do I need a lawyer?
What are my rights?
Here is my problem, what should I do/apply for?
What forms do I need?
How many copies do I need?
What documents must I file?
Do I have to go to court?
What if....What should I do?(wanting legal advice)
What is the next step?
What will happen next?
I need probate varied, how do I do it?
What's the difference between arraignment and election?

Cost How much will this cost?
What does it cost to serve someone?
Do I have to pay fees?
Why do I have to pay fees?

Timing How long will 'this' take?

- **FILING STAGE**

Process What do I need to do?
Where are the forms?
How do I fill in this form?
Is there a sample I can copy from?
Why won't you help me fill in the form?
Can you tell me what.....means?
What happens if other side/accused doesn't show up in court?
Do we have to go to court if we can agree?
Should I get a lawyer?
Who can I get to serve the papers?
Do I have to serve the summons myself?
What is an affidavit of service?
Witnesses? How do I get them to come to court?
How will I know when it is finished?
Variations-Why do I have to file tax returns and pay stubs?
How do the Child Support Guidelines work?
What happens at conciliation?
How long will it take to see a conciliator?
Do I have to meet with the other side at conciliation?
What do I do as the Respondent (family law)?
Or - they don't ask any or enough questions. Don't know what to ask.
What services are available?
How do I get a court date adjourned?
Does the other side have a lawyer?
What happens next?
What are my next court dates?
How do I change my Order? (Prov court recognizance?)
When does a peace bond take effect?
When do I get my money from restitution?
What's it like in court? At a hearing?
Questions about details in the divorce kit...
Do I give the other side copies of the forms?
Must I fill out all of the Statement of Financial Information?
Will I have the same Judge that I had before?

Will you sign my affidavit?
Do you have duty counsel?
How do I get information for the Divorce Kit?

Legal Advice What do I need to do?
Is this form filled out correctly? Is this what the Judge wants? How should I word it?
Can you tell me what....means?
What happens if other side/accused doesn't show up in court?
What if the other side doesn't give the information that is needed in court? (family law)
How much time do I have to serve the other side/witness...?
When do I serve the creditors? (bankruptcy)
What is an affidavit of service?
Variations - Why do I have to file tax returns and pay stubs?
How do the Child Support Guidelines work?
What do I do as the Respondent? (family law)
How do I get a court date adjourned?
What if the person breaches the peace bond?
What happens next?
How do I change my Order? (Prov Court Recognizance)
Questions about details in the divorce kit ...
Am I going to win?
What else do I need?
What do I do in court?
What if 'x' ... what will happen then? (family law questions about substantive matters)

Cost What does this cost?

Timing How much time do I have to serve the other side/witness...?
When do I serve the creditors? (bankruptcy)
When will this be finished?
How will I know when it is finished?
How long will it take to see a conciliator?
How do I get a court date adjourned?
How long will I be in court?
How long does it take to get into court?
What are my next court dates?

- **PRE-TRIAL STAGE**

Process Who's the crown? Judge?

Where do I sit?
How can I change my undertakings?
Can I get a lawyer?
What do I do if my legal aid appointment is after the court date?
What should I expect in the courtroom?
What is a pre-trial brief?
How do I get disclosure? Can I see the crown sheet?
What's a pre-trial conference and what is my role?
What is a date assignment conference?
What's a witness? Who would I call as a witness?
How do I subpoena a witness? Exhibits?
What is an affidavit?
Is court open or closed?
Discoveries - Who pays for it, how do they work? Where do I get a certified court reporter?
May I see a sample ... (Small Claims Court Claim...)
How do conciliation options work?
What if conciliation does not work?
What do I file for the Judge?
Can I talk to the Judge alone?
Do we have court appointed counsel?
How do I get Legal Aid?
Can I bring 'x' with me to court? Can they speak for me?
May I look in my file to see if my documents are there?
What am I charged with?
May I see a sample.....(Small claims court claim...)
What should I take to court with me?
How do I change my court date?
Will the Judge make a decision at the hearing?
How is the jury picked?
Respondent - Why do I have to go to court? What do I have to provide? (family law cases)
Do I have to swear on the bible?
Has Defence been filed?

Legal Advice What do I do in court?
What does common assault mean?
How can I change my undertakings?
What should I expect in the courtroom?
Why do I have to have a brief?
How do I get disclosure? Can I see the Crown sheet?
What's a witness? Who would I call as a witness?
What is an affidavit?
What should I ... (e.g. put in my affidavit)

How do I prepare a Notice of Trial? Record for Trial Judge?
What do I say to the Judge?
What should I take to court with me?
Respondent - Why do I have to go to court? What do I have to provide? (family law cases)

Cost How do I prepare a fee waiver?

Timing How long will court/trial/hearing take?
What time does court start? When should I be there?

- **TRIAL STAGE**

Process What will happen in court? What's the process?
How do I talk to the judge?
How do I get a legal aid lawyer?
What will happen if I don't come to court?
Can I postpone my trial date?

Can I read my notes in court?
Will the children come to court?

Legal Advice Do I need a lawyer?
What will happen in court? What's the process?
How do I present my case?
Do I have to take the stand?
What am I allowed to ask the Judge?
How do I get witnesses to the stand?
What if the witness doesn't show up?
Why do I have to pay witnesses?
Should I....(e.g., plead guilty or not guilty, go ahead with this)?
Do I need a lawyer?
Can I read my notes in court?

- **POST-TRIAL STAGE**

Process How do I appeal the decision?
How long do I have to appeal the decision?
Where do I go to appeal?
How do I get a transcript?
Can I speak with a judge?
What happened in the court room?
How do I pay/get paid the support before MEP kicks in?
How long must I wait for the papers to be ready (prov ct)

What does 'recognizance continues''no contact' mean?
How do I change my undertaking/recognizance/probation order? Where?
What does this decision/order mean?
What do I do with a typo in the order? Another mistake?
How long does a judge have to make a decision?
Why don't I have my order yet?
How does my time in jail apply to my fine?
How do I use this peace bond if s/he comes after me?
Where do I pay my fine?
How do I prepare my (divorce) order?
Will the trustee be there? (bankruptcy) Do I have to be there? Can someone else represent me?
What does 'execution' cost? What is the process?
What is the Registry of Deeds, how do I record a judgment?
How long must I wait for a pardon?
What happens to my driver's licence and points?
What if I can't pay my fine?
How do I get a fine extension?
How do I file a variation application?
How do I take them back to court - contempt?

Legal Advice What happened in the courtroom?
What does 'recognizance continues' 'no contact' mean?
How do I change my undertaking/recognizance/probation order? Where?
What do I do with this decision/order?
What do I do with a typo in the order? Another mistake?
How do I get my money?
I was treated unfairly, what can I do?
How do I collect costs?
How much time do I have to spend in jail?

Cost What does it cost to appeal?
What does 'execution' cost? What is the process?

Timing How long do I have to appeal the decision?